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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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Please be advised that Ed Lowry, Executive Director-Public Policy/New Business Issues, and I held separate meetings with Robert Branson, Senior Advisor to Commissioner Andrew Barrett, and John Hollar, Senior Advisor to Commissioner Ervin Duggan, on Tuesday evening, March 23, 1993, and Wednesday, March 24, 1993. respectively. The purpose of each meeting was to

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Overview

Cable television and telephony are converging industries.

Cable competition in the delivery of telephone service exists today.

The Commission should not continue to apply different rules to these competing industries.

Rate Regulation

The Commission's basic tier regulations should first ensure that existing rates are reasonable using competitive benchmarks and then adopt price cap regulation for the future.

The Commission should also apply price caps to rates for cable programming services above the basic tier.

Cable equipment should be provided on an unbundled, competitive basis consistent with the regulation of telephone equipment.

The Commission should also adopt cost allocation and other rules that are similar to those that apply to telephone companies.

Program Access

To ensure the success of video dialtone, programmers who use telephone companies' video dialtone platforms must have access to programming on reasonable terms and conditions.

The Commission should prohibit all unfair practices that significantly hinder access to programming, including undue or improper influence, discrimination and exclusive contracts.

The regulations should forbid the specified practices without requiring particularized showings of harm.

The Commission should establish procedures that strictly enforce its new rules and afford a fair opportunity to challenge unfair practices.